

ARRA Temporary Pipeline Projects
Byron Bethany Irrigation District, Firebaugh Canal Water District,
Panoche Water District, and West Stanislaus Irrigation District
August 4, 2009

Exclusion Category: 516 DM 14, C (3) - Minor construction activities associated with authorized projects which correct unsatisfactory environmental conditions or which merely augment or supplement, or are enclosed within existing facilities.

Summary: Under Title IV of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) for drought relief, the Bureau of Reclamation will provide funding to the Byron Bethany Irrigation District (BBID), Firebaugh Canal Water District (FCWD), Panoche Water District (PWD) and West Stanislaus Irrigation District (WSID) for temporary pipelines and pumps. These temporary projects will help preserve permanent crops and associated jobs in an area that is experiencing a prolonged drought, economic hardship and some of the highest unemployment rates in the United States. There will be no construction or associated ground disturbance as a result of the temporary pipe and pump placements. All pipe and pump locations are adjacent to existing roads, agricultural fields and canals and will be placed within existing rights-of-way which are already disturbed.

BBID will install two temporary pumps and 2,000 feet of 12-inch surface pipelines between BBID Canal 155 to MP 3.32 at the Delta Mendota Canal (DMC). The two temporary pumps will be installed at BBID's Canal 155 adjacent to BBID's existing pumps and pipes. From there, two 12-inch surface pipelines will run from Canal 155 to MP 3.32 at the DMC (approximately 2,000 feet). FCWD will purchase six portable booster pump and surface pipe systems to recover tailwater within the FCWD service area and pump it into FCWD's irrigation system. The proposed project is modular, with each system comprising of a Tier 3 diesel booster pump and a total of 4.35 miles of 10-inch surface pipe. PWD will lease approximately 7,000 feet of 12-inch surface pipe and a portable booster pump to provide a temporary distribution system to deliver well water to PWD laterals. The proposed project will supplement surface water supplies with an additional 6± cfs of groundwater by diverting flow from a grower-owned well into a PWD lateral. WSID will temporarily rent diesel pumps, install 3,300 feet of 24" HDPE pipe, and install valves, flow meters and required fittings to pump water from the WSID Canal into the DMC. The proposed project will deliver up to 10,000 AF to the DMC through the WSID Main Canal. There is an existing Warren Act contract for both the BBID and WSID projects which will be delivering water to the DMC.

Environmental commitments, explanation, and/or remarks: There is no construction or ground disturbance associated with the placement of these temporary pipes and pumps; therefore, the proposed actions would have no effect on species or critical habitat protected by the federal Endangered Species Act. However, construction personnel should be aware of the potential presence of San Joaquin kit fox. Any reported sightings of kit fox should be reported to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Game. See the attached Avoidance and Minimization Measures for San Joaquin kit fox for specific measures that will be incorporated into this project to minimize take of this listed species (Exhibit A). The proposed actions have no potential to affect historic properties pursuant to 36 CFR 800.3 (a)(1) and they do not affect Indian Trust Assets.